



96-49

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September 28, 2015

~~EXHIBIT FILE ONLY DUPLICATE~~

Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 – 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

**RE: ETC Certification to the FCC for 2016 Federal Universal Service
Support, Study Areas 482235 and 483308**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Pursuant to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Fourteenth Report and Order, *In the Matter of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. (96-45), Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative hereby certifies to the FCC and USAC that Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative is an eligible telecommunications carrier with study areas in the State of Montana and Idaho, and is eligible to receive universal service support in the year 2016. In support of this request, the following information is provided:

1. ETC Identification:

Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
1221 North Russell
Missoula, MT 59808

The Montana Public Service Commission sent a letter to all Montana ETCs, Rural and Non-Rural on August 15, 2015, in which it supplied filing instructions for the annual certification process. Per those instructions Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative certified with the Montana Public Service Commission for the exchanges located in the State of Montana. That certification was filed in N2015.4.39 on September 4, 2015. The Montana Public Service Commission will supply its certification of all Montana's Rural and Non-Rural ETCs to the FCC and USAC on or before October 1, 2015.

At the direction of the Idaho Commission (Case No. GNR-T-01-15, dated August 24, 2001), Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative hereby submits certification to the Commission for its single exchange located in Idaho.

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1221 North Russell Street, Missoula, MT 59808

866-541-5000

www.blackfoot.com

Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative

Blackfoot Communications

Fremont Communications

TeleSphere Software

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2. Contact Information:

Any communications or questions regarding this request should be directed to:

Jason Williams
Vice President, General Counsel
Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
1221 North Russell
Missoula, MT 59808
Telephone: 406-541-5454
e-mail: jwilliams@blackfoot.com

3. Study Area Information:

Attached hereto as Exhibit A is a listing of all local exchanges, by exchange prefix, switch name/location, and County, comprising Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative's incumbent local exchange ETC service area. Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative's "study areas" are comprised of all its incumbent local exchange properties listed on Exhibit A. The study areas have been assigned the study area codes of 482235 and 483308.

4. Rural Designation:

Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative is a rural telephone company as defined in **47 U.S.C. §153**. Additionally, Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative is an incumbent local exchange carrier as defined in **47 U.S.C. §251(h)**.

5. Use of Funds:

As provided in the affidavit of Stacey Mueller, CFO, for Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, which affidavit is being provided in conjunction with this request for certification, 2016 universal service funds will be used for and only for the purposes for which universal service support is intended, including the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services provided by Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative to its members.

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
September 28, 2015
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Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or comments on this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Williams", is written over a horizontal line.

Jason Williams
Vice President, General Counsel

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Exhibit A

Study Area 482235

Exchange Prefix	Switch Name	County
244	Potomac	Missoula
246	Dixon	Sanders
349	Alta	Ravalli
492	Avon	Powell
644	Charlo	Lake
677	Seeley Lake	Missoula
726	Arlee	Lake
745	St. Ignatius	Lake
754	Condon	Missoula
793	Ovando	Powell
825	Clinton	Missoula
864	Alberton South	Missoula
942	Powell	Clearwater, Idaho

Study Area 483308

Exchange Prefix	Switch Name	County
288	Drummond	Granite
649	St. Regis	Mineral
678	Haugan	Mineral
722	Alberton	Missoula
822	Superior	Mineral
826	Plains	Sanders
827	Thompson Falls	Sanders
847	Noxon	Sanders
859	Philipsburg	Granite

BEFORE THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE 2015)
Annual Certification of Montana Eligible) REGULATORY DIVISION
Telecommunications Carriers for 2016)
High Cost and Low Income Support) Docket No. 96-45

AFFIDAVIT OF STACEY MUELLER

I, Stacey Mueller, being duly sworn upon oath, depose and state as follows:

1. I am the Chief Financial Officer of Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, Inc. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated herein.
2. Per CFR 47 §54.314(a), *Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, Inc.* used all federal high-cost support in 2014, and will use 2016 support, only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended (see CFR 47 §54.7 and §54.101).
3. *Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, Inc.* has complied with all applicable reporting requirements per CFR 47 §54.313, §54.422, §54.304, and §54.1009(c).
4. *Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, Inc.* does provide federal Lifeline and Tribal Linkup services to low income customers per the provisions of CFR 47, §54-Subpart E – Universal Service Support for Low-Income Consumers.

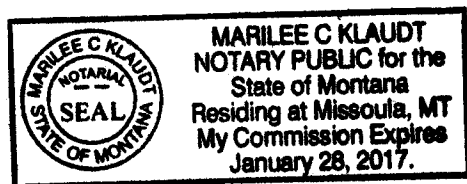
Dated this 28th day of September, 2015


Signature

State of Montana

County of Missoula

This instrument was signed before me on September 28, 2015 by Stacey Mueller. This Notarial Certificate is to be attached to, and associated with, only the following document: Affidavit of Stacey Mueller, dated September 28, 2015.



Marilee C. Klaudt
Notary Signature